

Minutes of Meeting
Health Services Council
Project Review Committee-II

DATE: 10 August 2006

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Health Policy Forum

ATTENDANCE:

Committee II: Present: Victoria Almeida, Esq., (Vice Chair), Maria Gil, Denise Panichas, Robert J. Quigley, DC, (Chair), Larry Ross, Reverend David Shire (Secretary)

Not Present: Rosemary Booth Gallogly, Wallace Gernt, Pamela Houston

Excused Absence: Raymond C. Coia, Catherine E. Graziano

Staff: Valentina D. Adamova, Michael K. Dexter, Joseph G. Miller, Esq.

Public: (Attached)

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and Time Extension for the Minutes Availability

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM. The Chairman noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. The Chairman requested a motion for the extension of time for the availability of minutes pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. A motion was made, seconded and passed. Those members voting in favor of the motion were: Almeida, Gil, Quigley, Ross, Shire.

2. General Order of Business

The first item on the agenda was a change order request by Newport Hospital to the 25 August 2005 approval of the Certificate of Need to renovate patient rooms on the 5th floor of the Turner Building. The applicant requested to be permitted to relocate the 5th floor patients to the 6th floor during the renovation period.

The applicant stated that it became clear that renovations would put patients at risk and make it unpleasant. The renovation of an entire floor will result in dust, debris and noise. There is also infection control issue. Alternatives were explored and it was concluded that moving the patients up to the sixth floor during the construction would be most beneficial. It was noted that the applicant surrendered its license for the sub acute unit that used to be located on the sixth floor and into which space the patients are proposed to be relocated during construction. The applicant noted that the hospital will follow

the exact proposal that was approved a year ago with the exception that the applicant renovate the entire floor at once and relocate the patients up to the sixth floor.

A motion was made and seconded and passed by a vote of five in favor and none opposed (5-0) to approve the change order request. Those members voting in favor of the motion were: Almeida, Gil, Quigley, Ross, Shire.

The next item on the agenda was the application of Newport Hospital for a Certificate of Need to establish a Diagnostic imaging center in Portsmouth to provide radiology services, including Digital Mammography, Ultrasound, CT and MRI services. The Chairman noted that he was a member of the Portsmouth Planning Board but he believed he did not have a conflict of interest.

The applicant noted that the proposal will help deal with the growth rate of the imaging services at the hospital and if the volume continues to rise then the hospital will be at capacity. Currently elective outpatients seeking imaging services from the hospital are being bumped because of ED patients who have first priority. The CT rate is up 31% in the ED in the last three years and the MRI for ED and inpatients is up 64%.

The applicant is proposing for a 16-slice CT and a 1.5 T MRI, ultrasound machine, general x-ray machine and a digital mammography machine. The applicant believes that this will improve the on-campus problem because the hospital will be to able migrate elective outpatient imaging to the proposed facility.

Discussion occurred about the service area and volume that the hospital serves and what areas the proposed center will serve.

A Committee member requested that the applicant provide utilization data and charity care information by city & town and whether the patient is underinsured or uninsured. To a question of why the applicant is only proposing a 16-slice CT scanner, the applicant stated that they are not proposing to do more invasive cardiac work that would require higher resolution. The Committee requested that the applicant provide a copy of the IMV report that was used in its need analysis. A member of the Committee requested that the applicant provide year to date volume for CT and MRI for 2006 and for the same period for 2005. The Chairman asked the applicant to identify the number of CT and MRI units in the Fall River area.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova